

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 /081 W

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R 101056Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2439

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: COMMENTS OF SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER ON LABOR AFFAIRS

1. DR. FRANCISCO MARCELO CURTO, SOCIALIST PARTY SPOKESMAN ON  
LABOR AFFAIRS, MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS DURING VISIT BY DALE  
GOOD (S/IL) AND LABATT:

(A) SOCIALISTS ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF  
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, CONSIDERING BULK OF MEMBERS SUSCEPTIBLE  
TO COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. HOWEVER, POLITICAL CLIMATE CURRENTLY  
IMPROVED OVER PERIOD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MARCH 11 WHEN THERE  
WAS REAL DANGER THAT LEFTIST, AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE  
IMPOSED.

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(B) SOCIALIST GENERAL SECRETARY MARIO SOARES WANTS CURTO TO CREATE A STRONG SOCIALIST FACTION WITHIN ORGANIZED LABOR WITHIN TWO MONTHS BUT CURTO BELIEVES IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST TWO YEARS OF HARD ORGANIZATIONAL WORK TO SHOW SIGNIFICANT RESULTS. RELATIVE WEAKNESS OF SOCIALISTS IN LABOR EVIDENT FROM LIST OF MINOR UNIONS WHICH CURTO CITED AS BEING UNDER SOCIALIST CONTROL, E.G., RAILROAD WORKERS OF CENTRAL REGION, OFFICE WORKERS IN SANTAREM.

(C) THE FEW TRULY IMPORTANT FEDERATIONS IN PORTUGAL, SUCH AS THE METAL WORKERS, OFFICE WORKERS, AND RETAIL CLERKS, ARE UNDER COMMUNIST INFLUENCE AND AFFILIATED TO INTERSINDICAL. HOWEVER, CURTO KNOWS MOST OF INTERSINDICAL'S LEADERS AND IS ABLE TO DEAL WITH SOME ON A NON-IDEOLOGICAL BASIS. LEADERSHIP OF INTERSINDICAL PURPOSEFULLY KEPT VAGUE BUT MOST INFLUENTIAL INDIVIDUAL AT PRESENT TIME IS JOSE LUIS JUDAS, A BROTHER OF NAVY LIEUTENANT JOSE MANUEL MIGUEL JUDAS, WHO IS ON THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

(D) COMMUNISTS HAVE AN ESTIMATED 10,000 PARTY "MILITANTS" WHILE SOCIALISTS HAVE 3,000. NEVERTHELESS, CURTO EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT SOCIALISTS HAVE MUCH GREATER APPEAL TO PUBLIC AND MIGHT WIN UP TO 40 PERCENT OF VOTES OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. ESTIMATED COMBINED VOTE OF PCP AND MDP/CDE AS 15 PERCENT. (COMMENT: CURTO'S ESTIMATES FOR PARTY "MILITANTS" INCLUDE BOTH PAID AND UNPAID PARTY WORKERS, INCLUDING THE MANY VOLUNTEER POSTER HANGERS WHO NIGHTLY PAPER PORTUGAL'S CITIES WITH NEW ISSUES OF POLITICAL POSTERS. HIS CLAIM OF UP TO 40 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IS WELL ABOVE ANY OTHER ESTIMATED RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY.)

2. CURTO DEPARTED FOR GENEVA APRIL 6 AS A MEMBER OF THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION TO AN ILO CONFERENCE ON THE UNIONIZATION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES. IN VIEW OF HIS IMPORTANT ORGANIZING ROLE IN THE SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN THE SOCIALISTS CAN ILL AFFORD HIS ABSENCE.  
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